

REMARKS/ARGUMENTSI. Introduction

This amendment is respectfully submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 13, 2005. New claims 37 and 38 have been added. Support for the amendment to claims 35, 36 and new claims 37-38 can be found in Fig. 11, the corresponding description, and elsewhere in the original application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 13-14, 20, 21 and 26-28 have been canceled either previously or in the current amendment. Claims 9, 11, 22, 23, 24, 35 and 36 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, 15-19, 22-25, and 29-38 are now pending.

In the Office Action the Examiner allowed claims 2-5, 7, 15-19, and 29-34. In addition, the Examiner objected to claims 9, 11, 12, 22, 24 and 25 but indicated these claims would be allowable if amended so that they no longer depended from a rejected base claim.

With respect to claims 8-10, 21, 23, 35 and 36 the Examiner rejected these claims for the reasons set forth in the Office Action. Applicants have amended claims 10, 23, 35 and 36 and canceled claims 8 and 21 so that only claims which are believed to be clearly allowable remain pending.

Applicants will now address the objections and rejections in more detail.

II. The Claim Objections Have Been Overcome

The Examiner objected to claims 9, 11, 12, 22, 24 and 25 but indicated these claims would be allowable if amended so that they no longer depended from a rejected base claim.

In response to the claim objections, Applicants have amended claims 9, 11, 22 and 24 to be in independent form. Claim 12 depends from claim 11 which is now in independent form. Claim 25 depends from claim 24 which is now an independent form. Accordingly, claims 9, 11, 12, 22, 24 and 25 are now in condition for allowance.

III. The Claim Rejections Have Been Overcome

In the office action the Examiner rejected claims 8, 10, 21, 23, and 35-36 for the reasons set forth in the Office Action. Of these claims, claims 8 and 21 have been canceled rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claims 10 and 21 have been amended to recite additional steps and/or elements which it is believed distinguish the claims over the applied references.

Claims 35 and 36 have been amended to clarify the subject matter of the invention and the elements/steps recited in these claims. In view of the considerable amendments to claims 35 and 36, which are supported by original Fig. 11 and the corresponding description, it is respectfully submitted that claims 35 and 36, and new


claims 37-38 which depend from claim 36, are patentable over the applied references.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If there are any outstanding issues which remain to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to discuss and hopefully resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

August 31, 2005

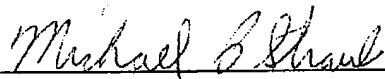

Michael P. Straub, Attorney
Reg. No. 36,941
Tel.: (732) 542-9070

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